

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In item 1 of the Office Action the Examiner indicates that he cited the relevant prior art from the parent application. The Examiner, however, did not cite the Japanese patent publication JP 9-065547 identified in the parent application. Therefore, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement along with a Supplemental Form PTO/SB/08A are being submitted herewith with respect to JP 9-065547.

As set forth in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, JP 9-065547 was cited by the Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO/SB/08A which were filed with the original application papers on July 13, 2001, and such papers were received by the Patent Office as evidenced by the copy of the return receipt postcard.

Accordingly, re-submission of the Form PTO/SB/08A submitted herewith in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement should not incur any Patent Office fee. Nevertheless, if it is determined that a fee is required in connection with consideration of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fee to Account No. 06-1378.

RE: THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner is correct that the amendments to Figs. 9-12 have already been made in this Divisional Application. The Letter to the Official Draftsman, however, was merely provided to make "of record" the changes made to the drawings.

RE: THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the specification as not having a reference to the parent application. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that item 6 at the top of page 2 of our transmittal letter for the present Divisional Application instructed the Patent Office to add a paragraph cross-referencing to the parent application. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, the specification has been amended as set forth hereinabove to refer to the parent application. In this connection, moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that the present application is a Divisional Application (not a continuation application).

In addition, the title has been amended to more clearly indicate the nature of the claimed invention, as required by the Examiner.

Attached is a marked-up copy of page 1 of the specification showing the changes made by handwriting.

It is respectfully requested that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

RE: THE CLAIMS

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby a wire is laid in the wiring path of the wiring board using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter and a leader of the wire is laid in a laying groove of the wiring path, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 11, lines 2-7.

In addition, claim 9 has been amended to refer to the leader of the wire which is now first recited at lines 11-12, and claim 10 has been amended to delete the recitation of "a laying groove" which is now recited in amended claim 9.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,709,564 ("Yamada et al").

According to the present invention as recited in amended claim 9, a method of assembling an electrical connection box is provided which comprises laying a wire in the wiring path of a wiring board using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter and a leader of the wire is laid in a laying groove of the wiring path, and such that the leader of the wire, including

any bent portion thereof, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board as the wire is laid. As a result, the wire leader is prevented from projecting out of or being lifted out of the laying groove and the wire leader can be securely held in the holding portion even if it is bent in any direction, without regard to the winding direction of the wire and the direction of attachment of the cutter that is used to cut the wire after the laying operation. (See the disclosure in the specification at page 11, lines 9-28.)

By contrast, Yamada et al merely discloses a technique for assembling an electrical connection box in which a wire laid in advance on a wiring board is cut at its intermediate portion disposed in an insertion slot. And it is respectfully submitted that Yamada et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described features and advantageous effects of the method of present invention as recited in amended claim 9 whereby a wire is laid in the wiring path of the wiring board using an automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter and a leader of the wire is laid in a laying groove of the wiring path, and such that the leader of the wire, including any bent portion thereof, is held in the holding portion of the wiring board as the wire is laid.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the method of the present invention as recited in amended claim 9 as well as

claims 10-11 depending therefrom patentably distinguishes over the teachings of Yamada et al under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 9 and 10 have been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) A method of assembling an electrical connection box, comprising:

§ providing first and second casings that are capable of being combined with each other;

5 , providing an electrically insulating wiring board between the first and second casings, wherein the wiring board comprises a wiring path in a desired shape and a holding portion, said holding portion being wider than the wiring path;

laying a wire in the wiring path of the wiring board using
10 — an automatic laying apparatus, such that the wire is extended
from a head of the automatic laying apparatus to a cutter and a
leader of the wire is laid in a laying groove of the wiring path,
17 and such that [a] the leader of the wire, including any bent
portion thereof, is held in the holding portion of the wiring
15 — board as the wire is laid; and
combining the first and second casings with the wiring board
located therebetween.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein
[said wiring path comprises a laying groove, and] said holding
portion comprises a holding recess that is wider than the laying
groove.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A METHOD OF ASSEMBLING¹ AN ELECTRICAL CONNECTION BOX

~~ELECTRICAL CONNECTION BOX~~

This is a division of application Serial Number
09/393,745 filed September 10, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to an electrical connection box, and more specifically, to an electrical connection box mounted in an automobile or the like and loaded with electrical components.

10 Description of the Related Art

As vehicles, e.g., automobiles, are expected to meet increasing market requirements for comfortable riding, they tend to require use of increased built-in electric devices, such as an audio system, navigation system, TV set, power antenna, air conditioner, rear window heater, seat heater, power seat, suspension hardness control device, etc.

15 The built-in electric devices are supplied with electric power from a battery in an engine room through an electrical connection box near the battery and a wire harness. In some cases, excessive current may flow in the electrical connection box if the vehicle body and the wire harness or the like are shorted or if a load such as a motor goes wrong from any cause. The electrical connection box is mounted with electrical components, such as fuses to 20 cope with such trouble and relays that control power supply to the built-in electric devices in association with various operating switches.

25 As is schematically shown in the exploded perspective view of FIG. 9, the electrical connection box comprises lower and upper casings 1 and 2 capable of being combined with each other, an electrically insulating wiring board 3 located between the casings 1 and 2 and having a wire W laid in a desired shape (shown only partially in FIG. 9)